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Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

When Sonic.net began I was an early rural customer for dial-up service. At that time the phone lines were owned and maintained by PacBell. You might recall that PacBell was formerly Pacific Telephone that was reorganized under the 1984 Divestiture of AT&T, the old AT&T, the regulated monopoly that was broken up into the Baby Bells to stimulate competition.

Perhaps competition was stimulated, but maintenance of rural phone lines where I live diminished with the transition. When SBC gobbled up PacBell, obviously not in keeping with the stated intent of stimulating competition, maintenance diminished again. When all the Baby Bells were subsumed as AT&T, the new AT&T, maintenance of rural phone diminished yet again.

During the mentioned transitions Sonic.net expanded their service into some areas where they were compelled to rely on the diminished maintenance of existing phone lines. Nevertheless because of Sonic.net's sound technology, knowledgeable staff, and competent management they have generally compensated for the diminished maintenance and continue to provide good service.

Now AT&T wants to increase their fees to Sonic.net and other regional ISPs, essentially charging them for dealing with poorly maintained rural telephone lines. This is not only anti-competitive, it's actually not in their best interests. It's AT&T's customers (the regional ISPs) who have been resourceful and cooperative with AT&T's rural linemen to keep the services up and running. The ISPs should probably be rewarded for this not charged more!

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